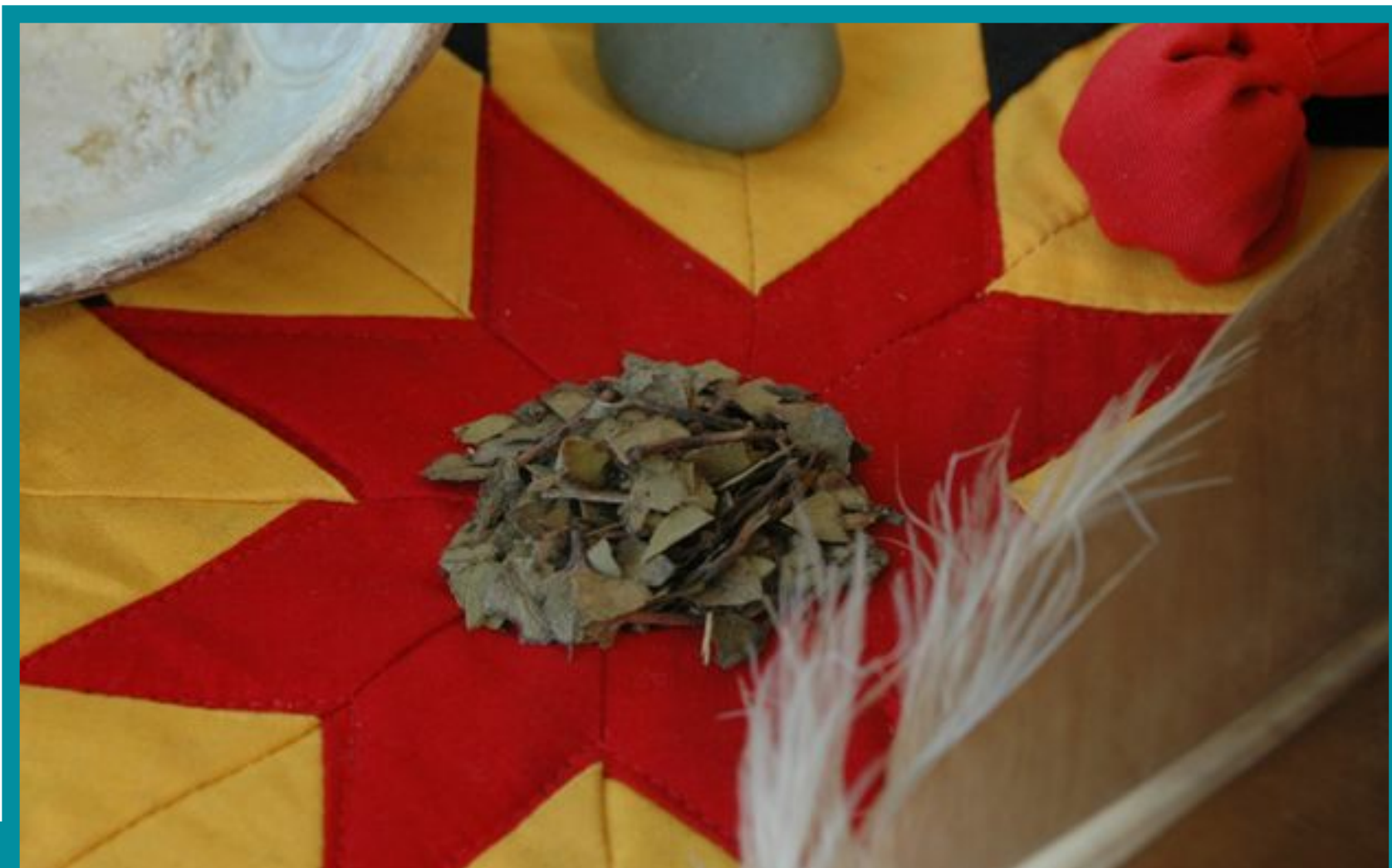


# Urban Indian Community in Washington State



*The image is natural (non-additive/processed) tobacco with other items that are meaningful to many Native Americans of various tribes. The use of this image speaks to the encouragement for our Native people to breathe life into our traditions ~ tobacco free.*

## Overview

- American Indian/Alaska Natives (AI/AN) youth are more likely than youth from other groups to have smoked cigarettes during the last month (CDC<sup>1</sup>).
- The prevalence of cigarette smoking among AI/AN in Washington is 40.8 percent (BRFSS<sup>2</sup> 2003).
- The prevalence of 12th grade AI/AN youth in Washington who currently smoke is 37 percent (HYS<sup>3</sup> 2004)
- Smoking among AI/AN youth in Washington is significantly higher than the general state population for almost all grades, and for girls and boys (HYS)
- AI/AN showed higher rates of smoking (37 percent) in King County compared to the overall county rate (19 percent) from 1993-1998.
- AI/AN maternal smoking in King County was 22 percent compared to the countywide rate of 10 percent.

## Key Accomplishments

- Coalitions in eastern and western Washington meet quarterly and are planning activities to address tobacco-related health disparities according to their 3-Year Strategic Plan (2006-2008)
- During SFY 2005, seven Tobacco Program subcontracts were awarded to Native American organizations within King, Pierce, and Spokane counties (focused on youth engagement, community education, and awareness to further build capacity).
- Initiating efforts to establish baseline data for Urban Indian tobacco use at the local level.
- Developed and distributed materials during the 18- to 29-year-old Tobacco Quit Line campaign using the theme "Breathe Life into Our Traditions ~ Tobacco Free".
- Exploring clinical cessation programs and culturally relevant education materials about the traditional use of tobacco for use within the community.

## Plans and Priorities

The Urban Indian Tobacco Prevention and Control Program will:

- Seek to prevent youth tobacco use by engaging, training, and mentoring youth as peer and community educators. Messages will focus on traditional vs. commercial use.
- Identify and increase community awareness with Urban Indian communities of available cessation information and resources.
- Work with each of our partners to eliminate health disparities.

<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control, *Tobacco Use Among U.S. Racial/Ethnic Minority Groups*, 1998

<sup>2</sup> Washington State Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

<sup>3</sup> Washington State Healthy Youth Survey